

CHARLESTOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION
August 22, 2017
Charlestown Town Hall
4540 S. County Trail, Charlestown, RI 02813

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by G. Klinger, Chair.
- II. **ROLL CALL:** Present: G. Klinger, C. Connery, G. Gardiner, S. Griffin, F. Safford and R. Thieke.
Excused: K. Simoneau.
- III. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Steven Williams (Town Council member), Frances Topping (Planning Commission member), Faith LaBossiere (Parks & Rec Commission and Bike Sub-Committee member), Jonathan Hammett (Bike Committee advisor), Lynn McAllister.
- Faith LaBossiere introduced J. Hammett who displayed a map of the Town which showed all the open space and who had control of it and onto which he had drawn a suggested bike/walking trail system about 25 miles in length, all of it north of Route 1. Parts of the biking portion would be on existing roads and some on protected land assuming proper clearances can be obtained. On South Farm and the Charlestown Moraine Preserves, the existing parking lots would be used as bike stopping points and the trails walked. While the Bike Subcommittee works on further development of this plan for north of Route 1, they are moving forward on a plan to develop a bike trail from Ninigret Park to the historic village area and much longer term explore a bridge or tunnel to get bikers across Route 1.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes of July 25, 2017 meeting was made by C. Connery. 2nd: G. Gardiner. Aye: G. Klinger, C. Connery, G. Gardiner, S. Griffin and R. Thieke. Nay: None. Abstain: F. Safford.
- V. **OLD BUSINESS:**
- A. **Charlestown Moraine Preserve**
 - a. Trail Maintenance – will be done in the fall.
 - B. **South Farm Preserve**
 - a. Trail and Field Cutting – G. Klinger discussed this with the Public Works Dept. and due to their workload, agreed to have both cut at the same time. F. Topping expressed disappointment that that had been done since it also cut down the butterfly weed and milkweed that provide habitat for the monarch butterfly. It was agreed that going forward the fall cutting of the fields will be delayed until late October but that the trails will be cut on a regular basis for the convenience of walkers.
 - C. **Schoolhouse Pond Preserve**
 - a. Kiosk – installation date of September 13th was discussed with September 20 as a rain date.
 - b. Trail maintenance - will be held on September 20 at 9:00 AM.
 - c. Maps – Maps for distribution have been obtained and R. Thieke will check with H. Hultgren if he has the kiosk map. If not, one will be obtained from Town Hall.
 - D. **Patricia Sprague Forest Preserve**
 - a. Parking Lot and Trail Marking – G. Klinger spoke with Public Works and the lot will be done after they complete road paving in various parts of Town. Public Works Dept. will advise us when they will do it so that they can be provided with a map showing where trail barriers need to be placed and the stone wall breached. G. Gardiner and R. Thieke walked the area and noted the appropriate places on the map and also spoke with one of the abutters. When this work is completed, boundary markers will be placed where appropriate.

E. Arnold Family White Cedar Swamp– No report.

F. Richard Trails

a. Trail Maintenance – will be done in the fall.

G. Additional Old Business - None

VI NEW BUSINESS

- a. Quonnie Private Well Owners Group Initiative Regarding Water Supply information was distributed to Commission members.
- b. Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic River Study Committee information was distributed to Commission members.
- c. FEMA information regarding their September 12, 2017 presentation in Westerly was distributed to Commission members.

VII MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: G. Klinger reported that she had addressed the Town Council at their last meeting to let them know what we had been doing; namely, the new trail at the Moraine, South Farm work day and Sprague preliminary work. She also encouraged people to sign up to be Friends of Conservation to bolster our list of people willing to come out to work days.

VIII ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by C. Connery to adjourn. 2nd: G. Gardiner. Aye: G. Klinger, C. Connery, G. Gardiner, S. Griffin, F. Safford and R. Thieke. Nay: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard N Thieke, Secretary

Next Commission Meeting on September 26, 2017 at Town Hall at 7:00 PM.

Special meeting on September 13, 2017 to install kiosk at Schoolhouse Pond – time TBD

Special meeting on September 20, 2017 at 9:00 AM at Schoolhouse Pond for trail maintenance.